

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 SPC-03 SAM-01 AID-20

NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 AGR-20 COME-00 L-03 SWF-02 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 AF-10 ARA-16 NEA-11 DRC-01 /203 W

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R 151943Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6906

INFO USMISSION USUN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF FOOD AID CONVENTION

ROME FOR FODAG; DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

REF: STATE 28915

SUMMARY: EMBASSY OFFICERS INFORMED OFFICIALS AT MINISTRY
OF FINANCE'S DREE OF US POSITION ON FAC EXTENSION. GOF

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STRONGLY SUPPORTS US VIEWPOINT BUT SEES DIFFICULTIES IN

REALIZING EXTENSION ON DESIRED SCHEDULE. END SUMMARY

1. ON FEB. 14, EMBASSY OFFICERS MET WITH JEAN-PIERRE LAFAURIE, AGRICULTURAL POLICY CHIEF IN THE DREE OF THE FINANCE MINISTRY, AND MARIE-JOSEE BEGON, HIS ASSISTANT WHO IS SCHEDULED TO ATTEND FEB. 20-22 MEETINGS IN LONDON. WE SET FORTH POINTS IN REFTEL, STRESSING THAT US WOULD NOT SIGN OR RATIFY THE FAC UNLES EC WAS A PARTY. WE ALSO EXPRESSED US MISGIVINGS RE EC PERFORMANCE ON FAC OBLIGATIONS AND MADE IT CLEAR US WOULD RECONSIDER ITS SUPPORT FOR FAC EXTENSION UNLESS THERE WAS IMPROVEMENT IN PERFORMANCE.

2. LAFAURIE REITERATED STRONG FRENCH SUPPORT FOR FAC EXTENSION BUT SYMPATHIZED TO SOME EXTENT WITH UK POSITION WHICH HE SAW INFLUENCED BY STEEP RISE IN PRICE OF BREAD IN BRITAIN. HE SAW NO LIKELIHOOD THAT EC WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE A POSITION ON FAC BY FEBRUARY 20. HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT EVEN TWO-WEEK POSTPONEMENT WOULD BE SUFFICIENT BUT SAW MARCH 15 AS A POSSIBILITY. HE ASKED US WHAT US POSITION WOULD BE RE EXTENSION WHEAT TRADE CONVENTION (WTC) IF EC NOT READY ON FAC, STATING THAT IN DAYS OF KENNEDY ROUND US HAD SAID: "NO FAC, NO WTC". WE REPLIED WE HAD NO REASON TO BELIEVE US WOULD WITHDRAW SUPPORT FROM WTC. LAFAURIE EXPRESSED OPINION THAT IT WOULD INDEED BE SERIOUS FOR FRANCE IF WTC NOT RENEWED AS THIS WOULD BE FIRST TIME SINCE 1948 THAT NO AGREEMENT WAS IN EXISTENCE.

3. LAFAURIE ALSO ASKED OUR VIEWS ON FOLLOWING SCENARIO: WTC EXTENDED BUT FAC LAPSES ONLY TO BE RENEWED JULY 1 OR SEPTEMBER 1. WE REPLIED WE THOUGHT IT PREMATURE TO COMMENT ON THIS SET OF EVENTS.

4. LAFAURIE APPEARED FAMILIAR WITH AND HAD NO QUARREL WITH FIGURES QUOTED IN PARA 4 REFTEL. WE SOUGHT TO EXPLAIN SLUGGISH EC PERFORMANCE BY REFERRING TO SHEER VOLUME OF EC ADMINISTRATIVE WORK INVOLVED IN SHIPMENTS AND COMMITMENTS. HE STATED EC PROGRAM FOR 1972/73 NOT APPROVED UNTIL MAY 1973 AND ACTION HAS NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YET BEEN TAKEN ON PROGRAM FOR 1973/74. TO THIS PROBLEM HE ADDED DIFFICULTIES OF HAMERING OUT AGREEMENTS WITH RECIPIENT COUNTRIES. ONE POINT HE SOUGHT TO MAKE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR: "FRANCE WAS NOT HOARDING ITS WHEAT".

COMMENT: IN THIS AND OTHER MATTERS, LAFAURIE HAS DEALT IN STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS. HE APPEARS GENUINELY CONCERNED WITH DELAY IN GAINING EC

APPROVAL FOR FAC EXTENSION AND SINCERE IN EXPLORATION
OF ALTERNATIVE SCENARIOS.IRWIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, SUPPLIES, GRAINS, ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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